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LETTER DATED 7 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 7 September 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, which contains the text of the report issued by the Russian Interfax news agency on 5 September 1996, from a source in the Russian intelligence organization, concerning the recent American rocket attacks on Iraq and the role played by the United Nations Special Commission's inspection teams in facilitating them.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed Hamid HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 7 September 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to refer to the letter I addressed to you on 4 September 1996 concerning the blatant American aggression against my country and to transmit to you the text of the report issued by the Russian Interfax news agency on 5 September 1996, from a source in the Russian intelligence organization, which indicates the following:

The recent American military operations against Iraq were planned, and had no connection whatsoever with events in Kurdistan.

The agency quotes the source as saying that the recent American rocket attacks against Iraqi territory were not a response to current events, but had started being planned several months ago.

The source made it clear that the international inspection teams that had recently visited Iraq were composed not of experts, but of American military personnel who had served in the Gulf War, and whose task it was to ascertain the location of Iraqi air defences rather than of weapons of mass destruction.

The source affirmed that the most recent military actions undertaken by the United States against Iraq had put the Ekéus team in an extremely embarrassing position, in addition to discrediting the team in international opinion.

This information confirms the extent of the danger posed by the disregard shown by the United States of America for the United Nations, and that country's exploitation of the Organization, and particularly of the Special Commission, for its own dubious political, military and intelligence-gathering purposes, which are directed against the security, peace and sovereignty of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq